

KAPOW Volunteer Activities

Extra Lesson: Ethics, Personal Responsibility, Stealing, Fighting, Bullying

Title: Ethics

Goal: A Morgan Stanley Smith Barney volunteer led students through this discussion to help students understand the importance of ethical behavior. You can adapt the activity to your own job.

The Activity:

“In my office, during the field trip, the first person you will meet is our boss. He will welcome you to our office, introduce himself and then ask some of the students what they think they would have to do to get fired?”

You respond to the students answers:

- Bad language? No, the boss would ask you to correct it like your teacher would.
- Being late for work? Dress Bad? Etc. ... Explain how these are correctable behaviors.

The one reason that you would be fired is because the boss can't trust you – because you lie, cheat, or steal. Other things can be improved, but your personal integrity is your most important asset.

Extra Lesson

Title: Personal Responsibility

Steps:

1. **Ask the students:**
 - How many of your parents help with your homework?
 - How many of your parents do your homework for you?
 - How many parents come to school and take your tests for you?
 - Where are your parents when to take your tests?
2. **Explain:**

They are not going to be there for the test. Having your parents do it, or copying someone else's homework is not going to help on the test. It's about personal responsibility. If you don't understand something- ask the teacher for help. You will never get in trouble for not understanding something, but you will get in trouble if you fail.
3. **If you're late- whose fault is that? Traffic? No. Rain? No – you have to allow for that and be responsible.**

Extra Lesson

Title: Stealing, Fighting and Bullying

Steps:

1. Ask the students:

How many of you have had something stolen? (Tell them you don't want peoples' names, or have them point to the other kids).

How many of you knew the person who stole?

How many didn't say anything because you didn't want to be a tattletale or snitch?

2. Explain:

What do you think if you went privately to the person, and tell them that if they return what they stole, you won't say anything, but if they don't you will report it. You are then putting the responsibility on the thief to do the right thing and accept responsibility for THEIR actions.

3. Ask the students:

How many have known that there was going to be a fight after school?

4. Explain:

How about if you put a note on teacher's desk without your name on it, saying what you know about the fight so the teacher or principal can stop it? Then you are not being a snitch, you are preventing a friend or classmate from getting hurt.

5. Ask the students:

How many of you like the bully?

How many of you want them to be your friend?

Why do you think they do it? (They're really afraid and want attention.)

If the bully changed their attitude, how many of you might actually like that person? Lots of us are concerned with having friends and being liked, but forcing people to do things never makes them like you.

For more information about this activity, contact Andrea Steinacker at andrea.steinacker@mssb.com.